



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Dorothy Weaver
(803) 737-2013
dweaver@dew.sc.gov

For Immediate Release

South Carolina's Employment Situation February 2017

Largest One-Month Increase in Employment Growth Unemployment Rate Steady

South Carolina in February experienced the largest one-month increase in the number of individuals working in its history.

Employment climbed by 10,645, bringing the total employed for February to 2,219,833 people. The state's labor force, which rose for the second consecutive month, increased in February by 12,380 to 2,323,023 people, and the majority of those entering the workforce found jobs.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate showed no change over the month, remaining at 4.4 percent, as the number of unemployed increased by 1,735 to 103,190.

Since February 2016, South Carolina employment gained 48,846 people, and the level of unemployed has decreased by 20,902.

Nationally, February's unemployment rate fell from 4.8 percent in January to 4.7 percent.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted¹)

February seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 1,800 over the month to a level of 2,074,300.

- Job gains were reported in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,100); Manufacturing (+1,500); and Professional and Business Services (+1,400).
- Information remained steady.
- Industries registering decreases were Construction (-2,600); Education and Health Services (-1,500); Financial Activities (-1,300); Leisure and Hospitality (-500); Other Services (-500); and Government (-400).

Compared to February 2016, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 32,000.

- Industries experiencing growth were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+7,800); Manufacturing (+6,200); Professional and Business Services (+6,100); Education and Health Services (+5,500); Construction (+3,300); Government (+2,000); and Financial Activities (+1,500).
- Other Services remained the same.

- Decreases in the last year were reported in Information (-300) and Leisure and Hospitality (-300).

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll jobs increased by 11,500 from January 2017 to February 2017 for a total of 2,050,200.

Improvements were reported in Government (+4,200); Professional and Business Services (+3,400); Leisure and Hospitality (+3,300); Education and Health Services (+2,400); and Manufacturing (+1,000). Information saw a slight increase (+200), while Mining and Logging remained the same. Construction (-1,400); Financial Activities (-900); Other Services (-400); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-300) all measured losses.

The over-the-year, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 35,700 overall. Several industries marked strong annual gains: Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+8,400); Education and Health Services (+7,000); Professional and Business Services (+5,700); Manufacturing (+5,500); Construction (+4,400); Government (+2,700); and Financial Activities (+1,300). Additional gains were in Other Services (+400); Leisure and Hospitality (+200); and Mining and Logging (+200). Information (-100) decreased slightly.

¹**Seasonally Adjusted:** Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a more or less regular pattern each year (i.e. tourist-related hiring and school closings in the summer). These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other nonseasonal movements in data over time.

²**Not Seasonally Adjusted:** Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from these data.

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**Statewide
February 2017**

Industry	February 2017	January 2017	February 2016	January 2017 to February 2017		February 2016 to February 2017	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,074,300	2,076,100	2,042,300	-1,800	-0.09%	32,000	1.57%
Construction	95,900	98,500	92,600	-2,600	-2.71%	3,300	3.56%
Manufacturing	243,200	241,700	237,000	1,500	0.62%	6,200	2.62%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	400,600	398,500	392,800	2,100	0.52%	7,800	1.99%
Information	26,800	26,800	27,100	0	0.00%	-300	-1.11%
Financial Activities	101,100	102,400	99,600	-1,300	-1.29%	1,500	1.51%
Professional and Business Services	274,100	272,700	268,000	1,400	0.51%	6,100	2.28%
Education and Health Services	244,400	245,900	238,900	-1,500	-0.61%	5,500	2.30%
Leisure and Hospitality	245,300	245,800	245,600	-500	-0.20%	-300	-0.12%
Other Services	74,300	74,800	74,300	-500	-0.67%	0	0.00%
Government	364,300	364,700	362,300	-400	-0.11%	2,000	0.55%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**Statewide
February 2017**

Industry	February 2017	January 2017	February 2016	January 2017 to February 2017		February 2016 to February 2017	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,050,200	2,038,700	2,014,500	11,500	0.56%	35,700	1.77%
Mining and Logging	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	0.00%	200	4.88%
Construction	95,100	96,500	90,700	-1,400	-1.45%	4,400	4.85%
Manufacturing	242,300	241,300	236,800	1,000	0.41%	5,500	2.32%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	394,500	394,800	386,100	-300	-0.08%	8,400	2.18%
Information	26,800	26,600	26,900	200	0.75%	-100	-0.37%
Financial Activities	99,500	100,400	98,200	-900	-0.90%	1,300	1.32%
Professional and Business Services	268,600	265,200	262,900	3,400	1.28%	5,700	2.17%
Education and Health Services	245,900	243,500	238,900	2,400	0.99%	7,000	2.93%
Leisure and Hospitality	231,500	228,200	231,300	3,300	1.45%	200	0.09%
Other Services	74,000	74,400	73,600	-400	-0.54%	400	0.54%
Government	367,700	363,500	365,000	4,200	1.16%	2,700	0.74%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) February 2017

Area	February 2017	January 2017	February 2016	January 2017 to February 2017		February 2016 to February 2017	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,074,300	2,076,100	2,042,300	-1,800	-0.09%	32,000	1.57%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	352,700	351,500	342,500	1,200	0.34%	10,200	2.98%
Columbia MSA	396,400	394,600	391,300	1,800	0.45%	5,100	1.30%
Florence MSA	88,700	87,500	86,500	1,200	1.35%	2,200	2.54%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	411,600	410,300	407,700	1,300	0.32%	3,900	0.96%
Myrtle Beach MSA	163,600	163,500	160,200	100	0.06%	3,400	2.12%
Spartanburg MSA	149,300	148,900	145,300	400	0.27%	4,000	2.75%
Sumter MSA	39,200	39,400	39,000	-200	-0.51%	200	0.51%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) February 2017

Area	February 2017	January 2017	February 2016	January 2017 to February 2017		February 2016 to February 2017	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,050,200	2,038,700	2,014,500	11,500	0.56%	35,700	1.77%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	349,000	346,900	338,300	2,100	0.61%	10,700	3.16%
Columbia MSA	394,500	390,400	389,500	4,100	1.05%	5,000	1.28%
Florence MSA	88,300	87,100	86,000	1,200	1.38%	2,300	2.67%
Greenville MSA	407,600	404,500	404,300	3,100	0.77%	3,300	0.82%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	74,700	74,400	73,800	300	0.40%	900	1.22%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	153,200	151,300	149,700	1,900	1.26%	3,500	2.34%
Spartanburg MSA	149,000	147,700	144,400	1,300	0.88%	4,600	3.19%
Sumter MSA	39,100	39,000	38,900	100	0.26%	200	0.51%

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

AREA		February 2017				January 2017				February 2016*			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marion County	↓	12,779	11,696	1,083	8.5	12,851	11,690	1,161	9.0	12,883	11,613	1,270	9.9
Allendale County	↓	2,672	2,455	217	8.1	2,727	2,492	235	8.6	2,685	2,418	267	9.9
Bamberg County	↓	5,256	4,833	423	8.0	5,339	4,890	449	8.4	5,398	4,854	544	10.1
Orangeburg County	↓	35,610	32,859	2,751	7.7	35,897	32,991	2,906	8.1	36,464	33,161	3,303	9.1
Marlboro County	↓	9,276	8,599	677	7.3	9,380	8,664	716	7.6	9,651	8,721	930	9.6
Williamsburg County	↓	12,695	11,807	888	7.0	12,784	11,865	919	7.2	12,923	11,780	1,143	8.8
Chester County	↓	13,911	13,007	904	6.5	13,911	12,972	939	6.8	13,691	12,657	1,034	7.6
Fairfield County	—	10,152	9,494	658	6.5	10,068	9,410	658	6.5	10,334	9,498	836	8.1
Georgetown County	↓	25,627	23,993	1,634	6.4	25,789	24,028	1,761	6.8	25,551	23,423	2,128	8.3
Barnwell County	↓	8,381	7,858	523	6.2	8,462	7,905	557	6.6	8,408	7,720	688	8.2
Horry County	↓	135,789	127,414	8,375	6.2	134,829	125,553	9,276	6.9	133,794	123,857	9,937	7.4
Lee County	↓	6,535	6,128	407	6.2	6,577	6,138	439	6.7	6,474	5,938	536	8.3
Clarendon County	↓	12,995	12,196	799	6.1	13,119	12,253	866	6.6	13,034	12,087	947	7.3
Dillon County	↓	12,915	12,125	790	6.1	13,054	12,223	831	6.4	12,511	11,517	994	7.9
Calhoun County	↓	6,970	6,581	389	5.6	6,929	6,522	407	5.9	6,995	6,550	445	6.4
Darlington County	↓	30,397	28,692	1,705	5.6	30,190	28,390	1,800	6.0	30,169	28,011	2,158	7.2
McCormick County	↓	3,459	3,266	193	5.6	3,462	3,266	196	5.7	3,488	3,243	245	7.0
Sumter County	↓	44,673	42,237	2,436	5.5	44,551	41,944	2,607	5.9	45,330	42,394	2,936	6.5
Union County	↓	11,853	11,198	655	5.5	11,798	11,089	709	6.0	11,945	11,057	888	7.4
Cherokee County	↓	23,787	22,537	1,250	5.3	23,933	22,568	1,365	5.7	23,700	22,110	1,590	6.7
Colleton County	↓	17,254	16,396	858	5.0	17,293	16,374	919	5.3	16,973	15,856	1,117	6.6
Edgefield County	↓	10,807	10,271	536	5.0	10,863	10,276	587	5.4	10,670	9,983	687	6.4
Hampton County	↓	8,180	7,768	412	5.0	8,259	7,835	424	5.1	8,101	7,513	588	7.3
Lancaster County	↓	38,175	36,312	1,863	4.9	38,084	36,156	1,928	5.1	36,397	34,179	2,218	6.1
Florence County	↓	66,495	63,299	3,196	4.8	65,727	62,397	3,330	5.1	65,911	61,868	4,043	6.1
Greenwood County	↓	31,563	30,040	1,523	4.8	31,739	30,141	1,598	5.0	31,280	29,522	1,758	5.6
Kershaw County	↓	29,454	28,045	1,409	4.8	29,284	27,791	1,493	5.1	29,252	27,594	1,658	5.7
Abbeville County	↓	10,391	9,901	490	4.7	10,436	9,906	530	5.1	10,437	9,800	637	6.1
Laurens County	↓	30,436	29,011	1,425	4.7	30,198	28,726	1,472	4.9	30,687	28,918	1,769	5.8
Chesterfield County	—	22,141	21,129	1,012	4.6	22,191	21,166	1,025	4.6	21,370	20,122	1,248	5.8
Oconee County	↓	34,771	33,166	1,605	4.6	34,947	33,227	1,720	4.9	34,888	32,863	2,025	5.8
Beaufort County	↓	71,769	68,544	3,225	4.5	71,449	68,072	3,377	4.7	71,406	67,739	3,667	5.1
Aiken County	↓	75,247	71,901	3,346	4.4	75,378	71,869	3,509	4.7	73,728	69,588	4,140	5.6
Pickens County	↓	56,757	54,256	2,501	4.4	56,380	53,671	2,709	4.8	56,715	53,646	3,069	5.4
Richland County	↓	202,809	193,883	8,926	4.4	201,321	191,920	9,401	4.7	200,533	190,069	10,464	5.2
Saluda County	↓	8,871	8,491	380	4.3	8,878	8,480	398	4.5	8,755	8,297	458	5.2
Spartanburg County	↓	145,018	138,797	6,221	4.3	144,055	137,539	6,516	4.5	142,227	134,859	7,368	5.2
Anderson County	↓	89,675	85,906	3,769	4.2	89,060	85,072	3,988	4.5	89,489	85,027	4,462	5.0
York County	↓	132,151	126,582	5,569	4.2	131,711	125,904	5,807	4.4	126,733	120,240	6,493	5.1
Berkeley County	↓	97,332	93,328	4,004	4.1	96,774	92,605	4,169	4.3	93,930	89,117	4,813	5.1
Jasper County	↓	11,831	11,341	490	4.1	11,692	11,192	500	4.3	11,688	11,133	555	4.7
Newberry County	↓	19,089	18,312	777	4.1	19,242	18,435	807	4.2	18,816	17,870	946	5.0
Dorchester County	↓	75,617	72,566	3,051	4.0	75,232	71,993	3,239	4.3	72,702	69,012	3,690	5.1
Greenville County	↓	246,959	237,172	9,787	4.0	245,072	234,838	10,234	4.2	244,053	232,735	11,318	4.6
Lexington County	↓	148,473	142,792	5,681	3.8	147,145	141,342	5,803	3.9	146,216	139,656	6,560	4.5
Charleston County	↓	206,656	198,981	7,675	3.7	205,123	197,031	8,092	3.9	199,188	190,197	8,991	4.5
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	379,605	364,875	14,730	3.9	377,129	361,629	15,500	4.1	365,820	348,326	17,494	4.8
Columbia MSA	↓	406,729	389,286	17,443	4.3	403,625	385,465	18,160	4.5	402,085	381,664	20,421	5.1
Florence MSA	↓	96,892	91,991	4,901	5.1	95,917	90,787	5,130	5.3	96,080	89,879	6,201	6.5
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↓	423,827	406,345	17,482	4.1	420,710	402,307	18,403	4.4	420,944	400,326	20,618	4.9
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	—	2,323,023	2,219,833	103,190	4.4	2,310,643	2,209,188	101,455	4.4	2,295,079	2,170,987	124,092	5.4

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Counties are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
— Unemployment Rate =

* The 2016 substate estimates above are not revised. Bureau of Labor Statistics scheduled publication date for MSA benchmark revised estimates and for county revisions is April 21st.